

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 6, line 10 as follows:

FIG. 2C is an orthogonal top view of the sac-rupturing device 10 of Fig. 2B, ~~as viewed on plane 2C-2C indicated in Fig. 2B.~~

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 6, line 15 as follows:

FIGS. 4A and 4B are orthogonal views of the distal end 18 of amniotic sac-rupturing device 10 shown in Figs. 1-2C. Fig. 4A is a partial side elevation ~~view as viewed along plane 4A-4A indicated in Fig. 2C.~~ Fig. 4B is a cross-section as viewed along sectional plane 4B-4B indicated in FIG. 4A.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 6, line 19 as follows:

FIGS. 5A and 5B are orthogonal views of the distal end 48 of amniotic sac-rupturing device 40 shown in Figs. 3A and 3B. Fig. 5A is a partial cross-section ~~partially cut away view~~ as viewed along plane 5A-5A indicated in Fig. 3B. Fig. 5B is a cross-section as viewed along sectional plane 5B-5B indicated in FIG. 3B 5A.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 7, line 4:

FIG. 7 is a perspective view illustrating a fourth embodiment of the present invention in the form of an amniotic sac-rupturing device 200 mounted on a hand 100.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 15, line 1 as follows:

Many other alternatives, modifications and variations of the foregoing and other embodiments may be utilized while still falling within the scope of the present invention. Many features of the embodiments may be substituted by other, functionally-equivalent features, and many features may be omitted entirely. Some features of one embodiment might also be combined with features of another embodiment. One alternative, for instance, might include an amniotic sac-rupturing device such as device 40 (or parts thereof) while also including something equivalent to aspects of the glove-like device 90, ~~---~~ perhaps in the form of shank 14 and distal end 48 adhered or integrally formed with a surgical glove to ensure sufficient strength of the resulting combination. FIG. 7 illustrates an example of such an alternative embodiment 200 having a shank 14 with base handle 11 and distal end 18 and hook 25 like device 10 discussed above wherein the shank 14 is attached to a glove-like device 210 that fits onto a user's hand 100. Like device 10 discussed above, device 200 may have a ring 16 for engaging finger 110 of a user. Glove-like device 210 may have openings 212 and 214 for accommodating the user's thumb and fingers. Other alternatives might include other features that have not been described here. The variations are countless.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 15, line 12 as follows:

Accordingly, the amniotic sac-rupturing devices 10, 40, ~~and 70,~~ and 200 enable safe and effective apparatus and methods for rupturing a mother's amniotic sac.